Release of Funds to Autonomous Councils of Assam

4236. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not issued direction to the Government of Assam to release the fund sanctioned under Central non-lapsable pool meant for Autonomous Councils of North Cacher hills and Karbi, Anglong;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by when the sanctioned fund will be released to the above Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Government of India has issued Sanction Order to the Government of Assam for release of Rs. 5 crore as Additional Central Assistance for Road Schemes to be implemented in North Cachar Hills District. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has also been requested to release Rs. 3 crore to the State Government as Additional Central Assistance for Diphu Campus of Assam University. As per the procedure, the State Government would release the amounts to the respective Autonomous Councils, for which no separate direction is necessary.

Rural Poverty in Himachal Pradesh

4237. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of rural poverty in Himachal Pradesh, particularly in hilly and backward areas have gone up considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being adopted by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure obtained from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). These surveys are conducted at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 estimated from the large survey consumer expenditure data of the 50th Round of the NSSO. Comparing two latest estimates, 1987-88 and 1993-94, it is observed that the percentage of people living below the poverty line in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh has increased from 16.28 per cent in 1987-88 to 30.34 per cent in 1993-94. However, this is less than the percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1977-78, which was 33.49 per cent in rural areas. The estimates of poverty are not available separately for hilly and backward areas of the state.

(c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Economic Development of Hilly and Tribal areas of NER

4238. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce schemes for economic development of hilly and tribal areas in the North East Region;

(b) whether any such scheme has been sponsored by Government in recent past; and

(c) if so, the details of such schemes in the hilly and tribal areas of North East, more particularly in Assam indicating the coverage made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC